

REMARKS

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 39-44. Claims 1-13 and 27-44 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 and 27-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent to Serra *et al.* (“Serra”). For at least the following reasons, Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites an image processing method comprising “selecting a particular drawing level from a plurality of drawing levels set in advance for a computer graphics algorithm ... executing a process of forming the computer graphics image by said computer graphics algorithm ... and performing processing by said computer graphics algorithm at a higher drawing level” The Examiner contends that Serra discloses the claimed features but does not specifically identify which element in Serra allegedly discloses the claimed computer graphics algorithm processing the plurality of drawing levels.

However, based on the cited sections, the Examiner is contending that the low image resolution generator 12b corresponds to the computer graphics algorithm with a plurality of drawing levels. The Examiner also contends that the claimed executing a process of forming the computer graphics image corresponds to image processing operations such as cropping the image, rotating the image, adding overlay text and scaling the image. Finally, the Examiner contends that print order generator 14b performs the claimed processing by a computer graphics algorithm at a higher drawing lever. Office Action at pages 2-3.

Serra discloses that the low image resolution generator 12b employs a OpenPix standard to provide the same image at various resolutions. (Col. 4, lines 32-34.) However, the OpenPix standard does not provide for any kind of image manipulation. (Col. 4, lines 42-43.) Image customization is done by “known image manipulation software.” (Col. 5, lines 9-10.) Serra also discloses that print order generator 14b, which receives the printing job tickets, customizes the image at the specified higher resolution in accordance with the customized lower resolution image. (Col. 5, lines 46-49.) Although not explicitly stated, the print order generator 14b uses the Open Pre-press Interface (OPI) since the printing job tickets use OPI. (Col. 5, lines 30-34.)

Applicant submits that, as set forth in claim 1, a particular drawing level of a computer graphics algorithm is selected. Then, a computer graphics image is formed by the computer graphics algorithm at the particular drawing level. Finally, an image data at a higher drawing level is formed by the computer graphics algorithm based on editing data set in the process of forming the computer graphics image at the particular level. Although the claimed graphics algorithm may, for example, be located on different computers, the same graphics algorithm, at different drawing levels, is used in the formation of the computer graphics image at the particular drawing level and the formation of the image data at the drawing level higher than the particular drawing level.

In contrast, Serra discloses that at least three different programs (alleged algorithms), i.e., OpenPix, known image manipulation software and OPI, are used in its process. Therefore, Serra does not disclose or suggest the claimed computer graphics algorithm with the plurality of drawing levels as set forth in claim 1.

Applicant submits that claims 2-13 and 27-38 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In addition, claims 5 recites that a plurality of computer graphics algorithms are further prepared. The Examiner cites a section of Serra that discloses the low resolution image generator 12b with the OpenPix standard.

Applicant submits that, even if the OpenPix standard qualifies as a computer graphics algorithm, Serra does not disclose or suggest that a plurality of OpenPix standards are prepared. Accordingly, claim 5 is patentable for at least this additional reason.

Claim 9 recites that the forming of the computer graphics image at the particular drawing level and the processing by the computer graphics at the higher drawing level is performed on the same image processor. The Examiner contends that image service provide 12 provides both low resolution and high resolution images.

Applicant submits that, to be consistent with the analysis given in claim 1, the Examiner must use user terminal system 13 for performing the claimed forming of the drawing at the particular drawing level and use printing service provider 14 for performing the claimed processing at the higher drawing level. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Serra that these functions are performed on the same image processor. In fact, the system of Serra is designed such that the functions are distributed (see Abstract, Fig. 1). Accordingly, claim 9 is patentable for at least this additional reason.

II. New Claims

With this amendment, Applicant adds claims 39-44. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as the features set forth therein.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

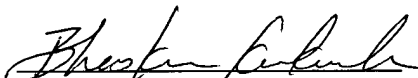
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Bhaskar Kakarla
Registration No. 54,627

Date: March 13, 2006